

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the Office Action and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the claims are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-7 and 11-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0072816 A1 to Shdema *et al.* (“Shdema”). Applicants respectfully traverse. In an effort to advance prosecution, however, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 17, and 21. For example, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite an automation system for speaker amplifier setup comprising a configuration determination element capable of determining a configuration setting, wherein the configuration setting identifies relay, communication zone, standby power mode, zones-to-inputs, and panel address parameters and a signal source capable of transmitting command signals, based on the configuration setting. Applicants have also amended independent claim 17 to recite an automation system that includes means for storing a set of commands that implement speaker amplifier system panel setup functions, means for determining a configuration setting, wherein the configuration setting identifies relay, communication zone, standby power mode, zones-to-inputs, and panel address parameters, means for transmitting a plurality of command signals, based on the configuration setting, conforming to the command set contained on said computer-readable storage medium, means for executing the set of commands, and means for receiving said command signals.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to recite a method for configuring a speaker amplifier panel system comprising determining a configuration setting for each of the plurality of

speaker amplifiers, wherein the configuration setting identifies relay, communication zone, standby power mode, zones-to-inputs, and panel address parameters and generating a configuration change command based on the configuration setting.

Shdema does not appear to disclose such an automation system or method. Nowhere does Shdema teach or suggest an automation system that includes a configuration determination element capable of determining a configuration setting, wherein the configuration setting identifies relay, communication zone, standby power mode, zones-to-inputs, and panel address parameters and command signals that are based on the configuration setting. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Shdema does not teach or suggest each and every feature of Applicants' claimed invention and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7, 11-16, 18-20, and 22-23 ultimately depend from at least one of independent claims 1, 17, and 21. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-7, 11-16, 18-20, and 22-23 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over US 2002/0072816 to Shdema in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,892,167 to Polan *et al.* ("Polan").

Applicants respectfully traverse. Claims 8-10 ultimately depend from independent claim 1. As stated above, independent claim 1 does not include each and every feature of Applicants' claimed invention. Polan does not cure this deficiency. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-10 are also allowable for at least the foregoing reasons and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 87321.1740.

Respectfully submitted,

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